

THE SPARK GAP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

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MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY 2003



Next Saturday, January 18th, we're talking about the Big Project. This is so big it will take three (3) people to explain it all. Our special guests are Dr. Gary Stouder, Bob Simcox and Gary Wynn. Greenfield High School has their own state-of-the-art ham station where at least 20 young hams have earned high school credits for their amateur radio expertise. This trio of ham communicators have not only inspired these young people, but have earned acclaim from the ARRL as one of the first schools in the U.S. to be picked for the ARRL "Big Project". Come see how big and how they used the student's equipment to talk with the space shuttle earlier this year.

CU 8AM next Saturday at the EOC.

73's

Jack W8ISH

Activity Director

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS TO START IN MARCH

IF YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO GET INTO THE SPACE-AGE HOBBY OF AMATEUR RADIO, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE. A FREE EIGHT-WEEK BEGINNERS' COURSE WILL START ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4 AT 7:00 PM AT:

FRIEDENS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
8300 S. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227
(JUST NORTH OF GERMAN PARK)

THE COURSE, SPONSORED BY THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF JOHNSON COUNTY, WILL TEACH STUDENTS OF ALL AGES THE MORSE CODE, BASIC ELECTRONICS AND EVERYTHING ELSE NEEDED TO PASS THE NECESSARY FCC TESTS AND GET THEIR TECHNICIAN AMATEUR LICENSE. TESTING FOR THE LICENSES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE COURSE THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM, BY AMATEURS.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE COURSE, AND NO AGE LIMIT, SO YOUNGSTERS ARE WELCOME.

THE TEXTBOOK REQUIRED IS AVAILABLE ON PREORDER THROUGH THE CLUB AT \$15.00, OR CAN BE BOUGHT AT A HIGHER COST THROUGH WWW.ARRL.ORG ONLINE.

ANYONE WANTING MORE INFORMATION CAN CALL DAVE WENDT KA9OOH AT 317-881-6531 OR EMAILING wendt@indy.net.

..... Dave Wendt KA9OOH



2003 MARC Club Dues

It is January and once again club dues are being collected for the new year. Dues are \$18.00 per year for all club privileges and use of the phone patch. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2003 please see Ernest Clark KB9SKI at this Saturday club meeting. The dues collected by the club are used for club expenses and repeater upkeep.

..... Bob N9SIU

Filing comments on FCC proceedings has just gotten easier.

The FCC has just launched ECFS Express, a greatly simplified version of its very popular Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

ECFS Express is designed specifically with the consumer in mind. It is easy to use, focuses on topics rather than docket numbers, and requires minimal input by consumers seeking to participate in the Commission's public rulemaking process. People wishing to comment simply click on a topic, fill in their personal information, write their comments and hit "send." To access ECFS Express, users just click on the "File Comments" logo found on the front page of the FCC's Web site - www.fcc.gov. Check it out!

..... Matt KB9UJE

LONG OVER DUE THANKS

This past fall the MARC changed it's URL to another service. The new site for the Mid-State Hams location is now on the On-Ramp Indiana. The new location has worked out very well and we receive excellent service.

Many thanks to On-Ramp Indiana for their assistance with our web page and the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club.



..... Bob N9SIU

ARRL Reaffirms Close Ties with the American Red Cross

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have renewed and updated the *Statement of Understanding (SoU)* between the two organizations last visited in 1994.

In the document, the ARRL recognizes the American Red Cross as "having primary responsibility for responding to domestic disasters" and express the League's desire "to maintain a harmonious and cooperative relationship" with the ARC in providing emergency communication services.

The *SoU* will remain in force for the next five years, with one provision calling for representatives of the American Red Cross Disaster Services and ARRL to jointly evaluate progress in implementing the *SoU* and to "revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate" annually. A copy of the *SoU* is available on the ARRL web site: www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/redcro.html

..... condensed from February 2003 QST

CLUB CONSTITUTION AMMENDED

Thanks to all of those who helped support the recent amendments in the club constitution!
Thanks to everyone who voted, we are one step closer to achieving out goal of becoming a
501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit corporation!

An updated version of the club constitution will be available on the website shortly!

Matt, KB9UJE

If you should have any club news or article you would like to have in the news
letter please contact Bob N9SIU at: n9siu@arrl.net before the 6th of the month.
Early contact will assure what you have will be published in the "Spark Gap".

..... 73, N9SIU

Please visit the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club web page at:

<http://www.midstatehams.org>